

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, SW

SUBJ: GVN ISSUES PRESS STATEMENT ON UPGRADING OF "PRG"

OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM

1. MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN AUGUST 19 ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT.
2. BEGIN TEXT: STATEMENT BY THE MILITARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON THE PLANNED DECISION OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO ACCORD A CHANGE OF TITLE AND ADDITIONAL FACILITIES TO THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE "N.L.F." IN STOCKHOLM.
3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF SWEDEN ON 12 AUGUST, 1974 RELEASED A PRESS COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME TO THE SO-CALLED "PRG OF SVN" THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING NEW FACILITIES TO THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN STOCKHOLM INCLUDING A CHANGE OF TITLE.
4. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO ADDED THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVING CONTACTS WITH THE SO-CALLED "PRG/SVN" ON THAT MATTER,BUT

REAFFIRMED THAT THE POSITION OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM REMAINS UNCHANGED.

5. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DOES IT NECESSARY TO LODGE A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST THIS ACTION OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS BOTH UNFOUNDED AND ILL ADVISED.

6. IN FACT, THERE IS ONLY ONE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM, NAMELY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SWEDEN RECOGNIZED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN 1958 AND ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN 1960. CONSEQUENTLY, THE FACT THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS HAVING DIRECT CONTACTS WITH AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS NOT A GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM CLEARLY CONSTITUTES AN INTERFERENCE INTO THE INTERNAL MATTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

7. ONE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF 27 JANUARY 1973 DID NOT BRING ANY CHANGE TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SITUATION, FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT HAS NEVER STIPULATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ON THE CONTRARY, THE PARIS AGREEMENT DID PROVIDE THAT THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES SHOULD HOLD CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM. THEREFORE, BOTH THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SO-CALLED "NLF" AND THE PROPOSED GRANTING OF FACILITIES TO THIS ORGANIZATION AS CONTEMPLATED BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ARE IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF 27 JANUARY, 1973 AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM, A RIGHT THAT IS "SACRED, INALIENABLE AND SHOULD BE RESPECTED BY ALL COUNTRIES", AS STIPULATED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

8. THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF SWEDEN DOES NOT HELP IN ANY WAY THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIETNAM; IT CAN ONLY IMPEDE IT. IN FACT, THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAS SABOTAGED ALL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES AND IS CURRENTLY COMMITTING VERY GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE, WITH THE OBVIOUS INTENTION OF SETTLING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE VIETNAM PROBLEM THROUGH VIOLENT MEANS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ACTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF SWEDEN WOULD HAVE THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO COMMIT ITSELF MORE DEEPLY TO A POLICY OF MILITARY ADVENTURISM, INSTEAD OF SERIOUSLY NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN VIEW OF THE RESTORATION OF A GENUINE PEACE. THIS WILL RESULT IN PROLONGING THE STATE OF WAR.

9. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
EARNESTLY WARNS THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SWEDEN
OF THESE VERY GRAVE CONSEQUENCES AND RESOLUTELY ASKS THAT
THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSED ACTION.
END TEXT.
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